(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ISRO plans to put a human presence in space by 2012/2015; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, ISRO is conducting preliminary studies to understand the technology challenges involved in undertaking manned mission to space. These studies include design of suitable space capsule to carry astronauts, life support systems, thermal management, issues related with re-entry and training facilities for the astronauts. However, at present there is no proposal seeking approval to send humans to space.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Lunar mission**

1796. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a lunar mission; and

(b) if so, by when a space ship is likely to visit moon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. India has planned an unmanned scientific mission to moon called Chandrayann-1.

(b) Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft is scheduled for launch by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle during 2007-08.

**Achievement in targets**

†1797. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first five months of current financial year, country is lagging behind with regard to coal, steel and construction of roads, and handling of good in major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of targets in each field togetherwith the reasons for lagging behind in achieving the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The sectors of Coal, Steel and handling of goods at major ports are lagging behind in the current financial year with regard to targets set for the period. However, in the case of up-gradation of National Highways the achievement, has exceeded the target for the period. Even in the sectors of Coal, Steel and handling of goods at major ports, the achievement in the first months of the year has been higher as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) The details of targets and achievements are given below:

| Sl.No. | Sector (Unit) | April-August 2005 Target | April-August 2005 Achievement | April-August-2004 Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Coal (Million Tonnes) | 152.03 | 146.66 | 139.07 |
| 2. | Steel (Million Tonnes) | 20.89 | 17.92 | 16.85 |
| 3. | Shipping (Million Tonnes) (Cargo handled at major ports) | 167.10 | 166.63 | 146.77 |
| 4. | Roads (Kms.) | 1466 | 2069 | 2269 |

Shortfall in target in the case of coal was largely due to heavy rains in some mining areas. In the market economy, the steel production is dependent on the market demand. Cargo handled at major ports was marginally lower than the target because of decline in POL import and fall in handling of fertilizers.

**Replacing of NSSO**

1798. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating measures to replace the National Sample Survey Organisation with National Commission on Statistics;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in that context what would be responsibility of NSSO in the future?